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CONLEY, ROSE & TAYON, P.C.
5700 Granite Parkway, Suite 330
Plano, Texas 75024-6616
Telephone Number: (972) 731-2288
Fax Number: (972) 731-2289

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NAME: T. Nguyen
FAX: 9 1 703 305-5408
FROM: Rodney Carroll
DATE: November 21, 2002
RE:
REMARKS:

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Total Number of Pages (Including Cover Page): 4

OUR CLIENT/MATTER NO.: 09/678,413 US (4081-00300)

YOUR REFERENCE NO.: USSN 09/678,413

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Atty Docket No.: 09/678,413US (4081-00300)

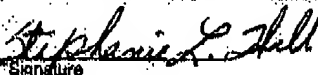
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Eduardo J. Baralt, et al.	§	
Serial No.: 09/678,413	§	Group Art Unit: 1764
Filed: October 2, 2000	§	
	§	Examiner: T. Nguyen
For: Oligomerization of Alpha Olefins in the	§	
Presence of Carboxylic Acids	§	Confirmation No. 4378
	§	

BOX RESPONSES - NO FEE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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SignatureRESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner:

This submission is in response to the Office Action mailed on August 22, 2002 (Paper No. 12).

REMARKS

Claims 10-18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cupples et al. (4,045,507). Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic interview on November 20, 2002 wherein the obviousness rejection over Cupples was discussed. In response to the obviousness rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that the Cupples reference does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as to the pending claims. According to MPEP 2142, three basic criteria must be met to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness:

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